

Internet Resources with Information about Social Realism

Jill P. May, Professor of Literacy and Language

Purdue University

Websites can lead you to books or discussions about social realism in children's and young adult literature. Here are a few that *First Opinions*, *Second Reactions* can recommend for your use as you hunt for books to read and recommend:

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), <<http://www.ala.org/ylsa>>, is a section of the American Library Association that has been involved in selection of quality materials for young adults. As an organization that is sponsored by many librarians, YALSA has been instrumental in helping teachers and parents find noteworthy authors and award winning books. You can visit their site or blog, <<http://blogs.ala.org/ylsa.php>>, if you wish, or you can just use their extensive lists of books such as the few listed below:

Guess Again: Mystery and Suspense: This contains a list compiled from recommended mysteries on YALSA's 2003 Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults.

Flights of Fancy: Beyond Harry and Frodo: Good for those of you who want to find and read something beyond Harry Potter.

Librarians' Choice: 100 Super Summer Reads for Teens: This is not a list of books that will replace student assignments in their fall classes, but it will give them titles that are fun to read. It has been compiled by YALSA's 50th Anniversary Taskforce.

The annual Parents' Choice awards, offered in a number of genres, can be found at this web site: <<http://www.parents-choice.org/allawards.cfm>>. The award was established by a nonprofit organization composed of educators, scientists, entertainers, parents, and children who each year create a guide for those who work with children to use when they are hunting for appropriate materials to share. This site is not limited to books; it also includes noteworthy toys, software, videogames, and magazines.

The National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) in cooperation with the Children's Book Council (CBC) compiles a yearly annotated booklist, "Notable Trade Books for Young People," that can be found on this site: <<http://www.socialstudies.org/resources/notable/>>. The books are targeted for children K-8; and many emphasize cultural and social issues that fit within social realism. All have been determined by the selection committee to be quality current representations from publishing houses. Although the list need not be used

for classroom study, the titles are arranged in topics covered in social studies education.

The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) names the Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children each year. More about the award and previous winning books can be found at the following site:

<<http://www.ncte.org/about/awards/sect/elem/106877.htm>>.